

November 7, 2013

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom it May Concern:

The IB believes that connected classrooms help to prepare students for college, university and life beyond the classroom

The International Baccalaureate Organization strongly supports the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, or E-rate program. E-rate provides discounts on certain services and products that are essential for classrooms and libraries to receive voice, video, and data communications.

We are writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. Technology has succeeded in flattening the world. It has also accentuated the gap in potential outcomes between those with and those without broadband digital access. E-rate helps students and teachers gain access to essential online resources, it facilitates communication and collaboration and enhances 21st century skill-building. The IB supports the recommended increase of E-Rate funding levels to at least \$5 billion per year, similar to the past two years funding levels.

At the IB, we are ramping up the use of technology for both educators and students. IB's on-line learning initiative continues to grow its course offerings to meet the needs of students who want more options than those provided by their local school. To meet this demand, the IB is developing flexibility in our modes of delivery to enhance learning anywhere and anytime. Increasingly, innovation in education is linked to technology. The IB's new e-assessment relies on the availability of broadband access. We understand that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the curriculum is a prerequisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high-speed broadband is the key to allowing modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

We believe the E-Rate program has been successful in bringing internet access to almost every classroom in America. We also anticipate the intensity of demand for broadband will grow as school's increasingly develop "bring your own device" policies. Therefore, the IB respectfully urges the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students deserve access to broadband internet access. Our nation's continued success depends upon it.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drew Deutsch', with a stylized, cursive script.

Drew Deutsch

Regional Director, Americas